

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0044

UNCLAS ROME 15264

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR IT

SUBJ: CIVAIR : EFFECT OF ITALY'S CHARTER REGULATIONS ON ONE STOP
INCLUSIVE CHARTERS(OTC)

REF: ROME 15263

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL TRADE SORCES, THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO
OTC CHARTER FLIGHTS OPERATING FROM THE US TO ITALY UNDER
CURRENT ITALIAN CHARTER REGULATIONS THAT ARE NOT OPERATING UNDER
A WAIVER OF THE MINIMUM PRICE PROVISION.THESE TRADE SOURCES
ASSUME THAT MINIMUM PRICE PROVISION WILL BE RETAINED IN WHATEVER
CHARTER REGULATIONS ARE MADE EFFECTIVE FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION,
ON MARCH 31, 1977, OF THE EXISTPNG REGUALTIONS.THEY CLAIM THAT US
TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLANNING TO PROGRAM OTC'S IN THE NEXT
SUMMER SEASON TO OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY GREECE AND SPAIN.
THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF ITALY'S MINIMUM PRICE REGULATION WOULD
OTHERWISE BE PROGRAMMED FOR ITALY.THEY ALSO INDICATE, HOWEVER
, THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF OTC'S WILL BE PROGRAMMED FOR ITALY AT
PRICES THEY CONSIDER REASONABLE AND ATTRACTIVE, BUT BELOW
EXPECTED MINIMUM PRICES NEXT SEASON.ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITIES SAY, ON THE OTHER HAND,THAT THEY HWV E NOT GIVEN THE
MINIMUM PRICE SCHEDULE A SUFFICIENT TEST AS YET AND THAT THEY ARE
NOT IN A POSITION TO INDICATE THE NATURE OF CHARTER REGULATIONS
FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SUSPECT WE WILL BE FACED WITH
A LARGE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR EMBASSY INTERVENTION TO OBTAIN
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WAOVERS ABOUT THE TIME NEW REGULATIONS COME OUT NEXT YEAR.

MORE LIBERAL US CHARTER REGULATIONS JUST ANNOUNCED MAY WEELL
AGGRAVATE AN ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE
ON THIS MATTER.IS THIS A SUBJECT THAT SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR
ANY FUTURE CONSULTATIONS (SEE REFTTEL)? SHOULD THE EMBASSY TRY
TO DEAL WITH IT SEPARATELY OR DO NOTHING FOR NOW?BEAUDRY

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